

The Delta Plan

California Water Plan Update – Delta Regional Forum

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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL





It's All About the Coequal Goals

“Coequal goals means the two goals of providing a more **reliable water supply** for California; and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the **Delta ecosystem**.

The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that **protects and enhances** the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of **the Delta as an evolving place.**”

CA Water Code §85054

The Council's Delta Plan

-  A “common sense” approach, based on best available science
-  A single blueprint to guide & coordinate major actions in the Delta
-  Contains a series of policies and recommendations for state and federal action
-  Requires “covered actions” be consistent with Delta Plan

Meeting the Coequal Goals

1) Increase statewide water supply reliability

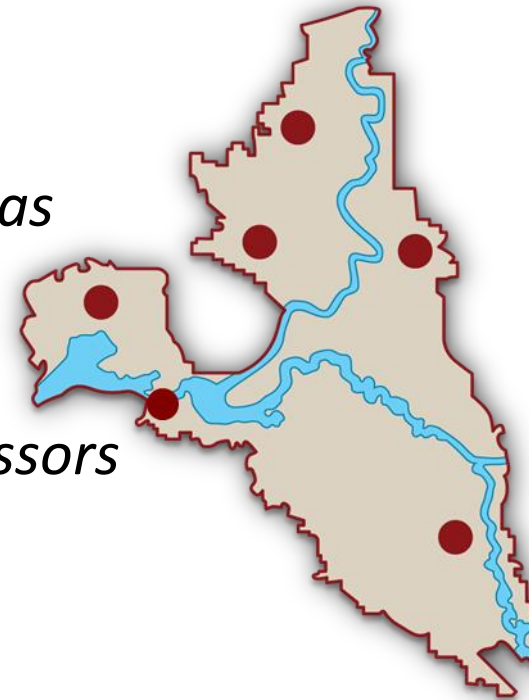
- ✓ Reduced reliance on the Delta through conservation, recycling, stormwater capture, and other diverse local supplies
- ✓ State Board to update water quality objectives, including flow standards, to increase certainty
- ✓ Improve conveyance, finish storage studies, make decisions



Meeting the Coequal Goals

2) Protect and enhance the ecosystem

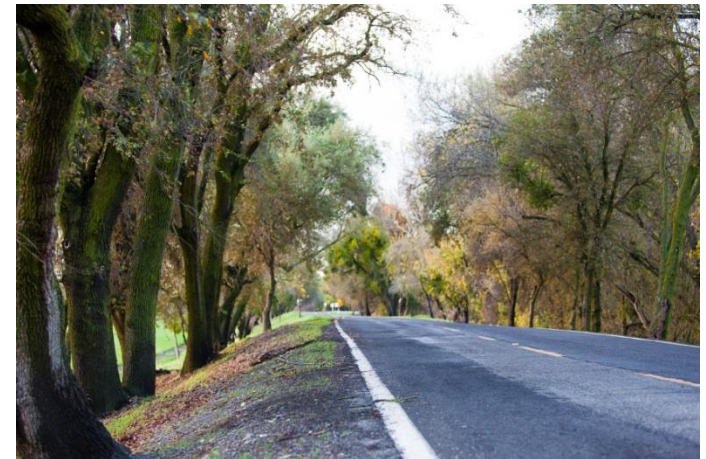
- ✓ *Protect & Restore 6 high-priority habitat areas*
- ✓ *Update Delta water quality objectives*
- ✓ *Recommendations to reduce ecosystem stressors*
- ✓ *Complete and successfully permit BDCP*



Meeting the Coequal Goals

3) Achieve in a manner that protects and enhances the values & unique, “evolving” characteristics of the Delta

- ✓ *Protect rural lands for agriculture*
- ✓ *Locating new urban development in urban & urbanizing areas*
- ✓ *Designate the Delta a National Heritage Area*
- ✓ *Encourage recreation and tourism*
- ✓ *Enhancing legacy communities*



Reduce Risk

Flooding in Mossdale, 1997



4) The Delta is inherently flood-prone

- ✓ ***Improve flood preparedness and emergency response***
 - *Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District*
- ✓ ***Reduce Delta exposure to flood risk***
 - *Enhance floodplains, create setback levees*
- ✓ ***Set state priorities for investment in Delta flood protection by 2015***

Best Available Science

5) Make use of the best available science

- ✓ *Adaptively manage ecosystem restoration and water management actions*
- ✓ *Develop a Delta Science Plan by 2014*
- ✓ *Independent Science Board reviews scientific research, monitoring, and evaluation*



Implementation of the Delta Plan

- Delta Reform Act: “The Council shall establish and oversee *a committee of agencies responsible for implementing the Delta Plan*. Each agency shall coordinate its actions pursuant to the Delta Plan with the council and the other relevant agencies.” (Water Code § 85204)

Delta Protection
Commission



Implementation of the Delta Plan

- 🌊 Council has regulatory authority on covered actions
- 🌊 State and local agencies self certify consistency of covered actions to the Delta Plan
- 🌊 Covered actions must be consistent with the Delta Plan's 14 regulatory policies
- 🌊 Covered action consistency with the Delta Plan can be appealed to the Council

Consistency with the Delta Plan

Covered Actions (WC 85057.5)

- *Will occur, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of the Delta or Suisun Marsh;*
- *Will be carried out, approved, or funded by the state or a local public agency;*
- *Is covered by one or more provisions of the Delta Plan;*
- *Will have a significant impact on the achievement of one or both of the coequal goals or the implementation of government-sponsored flood control programs to reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta.*

Questions?

www.deltacouncil.ca.gov



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